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Austrian part of it, since the foundation of the Royal Hungarian National Institute (1869); nor will the time permit me to make individual mention of the great number of eminent investigators who were active in the service of the Institute. I will refer only to one of the accomplished directors of the Institute, the former President of our Society, Franz von Hauer. To him we owe the greatest advance in the clearing up of the Alpine deposits, which about the middle of the last century seemed as yet a hopeless riddle; together with the first attempt at a general geologic map of the entire monarchy (1867-1871), a work which has permanently laid down the main outlines of its geologic structure, and which, despite the wealth of recent detailed investigations, is still indispensable.*

The long-felt want of a geologic special map was recently met by the issue of such a map on the basis of the new topographic special map, the first sheets of which were published ten years ago on the occasion of his Majesty's golden jubilee as Emperor.† This enterprise, together with the one which the Polish Academy of Cracow has undertaken for Galicia, now places Austrian geology worthily alongside of similar work in other countries, especially Germany and Switzerland. During the past ten years the great work has steadily advanced, although the difficulties of accurate mapping are unusually great, in view of the extent of the national domain and the nature of the configuration, as well as of the geologic structure. (*Translation by Robert Stein.*)

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* Hauer's activity is described in detail in the comprehensive obituary by E. Tietze, "Franz von Hauer." Wien 1900. (*Jahrb.* der K. K. Geolog. Reichsanstalt, Band 49.)

† F. v. Richthofen, "Die neue geologische Karte von Oesterreich." *Zeitschrift* der Gesellschaft für Erdkunde zu Berlin, 1898, pages 355-366.

THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF GERMAN GEOGRAPHERS.

BY

W. JOERG.

The XVIIth meeting of German Geographers was held in Lübeck on June 1, 2 and 3, 1909. The attendance was the largest since the XIIIth meeting in Breslau in 1901, 379 persons being present, of whom 285 were active members having the right to vote. The German and Austrian universities were very fully represented by the following incumbents of geographical chairs: Brückner

(Vienna), Drygalski (Munich), Fischer (Marburg), Friederichsen (Griefswald), Hahn (Königsberg), Hettner (Heidelberg), Krümmel (Kiel), Meinardus (Münster), Neumann (Freiburg), Partsch (Leipsig), Penck (Berlin), Philippson (Halle), Regel (Würzburg), Rein (Bonn), Sapper (Tübingen), Sieger (Graz), Supan (Breslau), Ule (Rostock), Wagner (Göttingen).

The principal topics were grouped under the following headings: Explorations, Oceanography, Physiography of Deserts and Geographic Teaching.

Three papers were presented on original explorations. Professor Sapper reported on an expedition to the Bismarck Archipelago which he undertook in the early part of 1908 in conjunction with Dr. Friederici, under the auspices of the German Colonial Office. New Hanover and New Mecklenburg were explored, as well as adverse weather conditions would permit, the latter island being crossed six times. The resulting complete knowledge of the topography of the interior has been epitomized on a large scale map of the islands, which was submitted to the meeting.

Dr. Karutz gave an account of the results so far achieved by the expedition organized by the Lübeck Museum of Ethnography to study the native tribe of the Mpangwe in the southern Cameroons and the adjoining part of the French Congo. Valuable deductions can already be made on the basis of the material available as to the racial elements which have entered into the formation of this composite tribe.

Dr. A. Tafel spoke of his trip to Tibet, which led him from the upper Han River to the bend of the Hoang Ho at Tung-Kuan-ting, and from there to the upper reaches of that river towards the Kukunor. His route was illustrated by a series of maps which were excellent examples of comprehensive exploratory mapping.

A paper that pre-eminently commanded the attention of the meeting was the one on "The Newer Theories of Ocean Currents," read by Professor Krümmel. After showing that the drift theory is no longer tenable, as it fails to explain satisfactorily the causes of ocean currents, he discussed in detail Zöppritz's claim with regard to the important part that friction takes in conveying motion to the lower layers of water. This he contrasted with Nansen's and Ekman's views on the influence of the earth's rotation on currents and their theories on the modification of the direction of water motion caused by this agency at greater depths. The lecturer's own opinion was to the effect that the factors involved in the origin of ocean currents were constituent rather than causal, and he made a strong plea for the consideration of all factors in any attempt to explain the cause of ocean currents,—of the active factors as exemplified by wind, pressure, temperature, salinity, evaporation, as well as of the passive factors such as the continuity of water masses and the earth's rotation.

The only other paper on an oceanographic theme was the one Dr. Eckert read on the Development of German Admiralty Charts. In spite of the short existence of the German Hydrographic Office, it has published a considerable number of charts of the highest quality in scientific accuracy and artistic execution. These are gradually replacing foreign-made charts for navigation in German coastal waters, and, since 1901, when the first charts of foreign coasts were published, they have been used in foreign waters also. It is evident, however, that Germany cannot yet compete in number with the publications of the admiralty or corresponding institutions of Great Britain, with nearly 4,000 separate charts, of France with 3,000, of the United States with 2,600, or of Japan with 700. It may be interesting to note, in this connection, that Welcker, the chief cartographer of the German Admiralty from 1875 to 1888, received part of his training in the United States Hydrographic Office.

The greatest interest was evinced in the papers presented by Dr. Passarge and Professor Penck dealing with the physiography of deserts. The former reported on the results of his studies in Algeria on denudation in deserts, while the latter spoke of the problem of the genesis of deserts in general.

Dr. Passarge was of the opinion that Walther's views with regard to the factors leading to the formation of deserts had been too extensively generalized. His theories did not, at least, hold good for the North Algerian Steppes and the northern Sahara.

Professor Penck, too, referred to Walther's views. The latter had attempted to explain the genesis of deserts by means of definite processes. In this it is possible that he had overestimated the influence of wind. The problem should also be approached from the point of view of the genetic development of land forms. These considerations should not be restricted to the forms of arid regions; regions of a moister climate should also be studied, for many desert forms, so called, are typical of humid countries. Then it will appear that water erosion is a more important factor in the formation of deserts than has heretofore generally been thought. For arid climate does not preclude the possibility of precipitation; on the contrary, relatively rare though it may be, it usually is particularly vehement and therefore exerts a very great erosive power.

These two papers represent material advances towards the elucidation of this problem and in themselves make for that consideration of all factors which is necessary to explain the complex phenomena of nature.

The subject of Geographic Teaching led to a very animated discussion. At the previous meeting at Nuremberg in 1907, the Permanent Commission for the Teaching of Geography had been directed to prepare a detailed memorandum containing suggestions for adequate reforms in the teaching of geography in secondary schools. This memorandum, a book of 83 pages, had been sent to the members of the Lübeck meeting before its convention. It contained papers on the importance of geographic training, the aims and methods of geographic instruction, the qualifications and training of teachers of geography. The view expressed in the paper on the latter subject by Professor Neumann of Freiburg University did not seem to meet with general approval: he recommended a detailed study of higher mathematics, physics, chemistry, zoology, botany, mineralogy and geology as a necessary prerequisite to competent teaching of geography. The general opinion, however, was to the effect that this represented an over-emphasis of the natural science side of geography and ignored its unique mission in education as a connecting link between the natural and the humanistic sciences.

The essential features of these reform suggestions, as finally summarized in the following way by Professor Penck, met with the unanimous approval of the meeting and were recommended to the consideration of the proper authorities:

> "The prospective teacher of geography must have studied the subject for a certain length of time. The minimum amount of time and work necessary to gain a thorough, scientific knowledge must be determined according to the inherent requirements of the subject and the average capacity of the student. No difference must be made in the training of candidates according to the various types of schools in which they are going to teach.
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> "Without wishing to limit the freedom of combining various subjects with geography the meeting recommends the study of geography in connection with the natural sciences, especially geology, or with physics and mathematics, or again with history. The purely geographic work should by all means be supplemented by geological lectures, exercises and excursions. But the Meeting leaves it to the department of geography at the various universities to draw up special plans of study.
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> "The meeting, therefore, emphatically renews its former demand for a strictly professional training of geography teachers and for the extension of instruction in geography to the upper classes in all types of secondary schools.
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> "The meeting does not expect a person who teaches geography to devote his time exclusively to this subject, but it does demand of him competent and thoroughly scientific instruction.

"The meeting believes the main objects of geographic teaching to be the following:

"1. The acquisition of clear topical conceptions of the conditions of the earth's surface.

"2. A familiarity with the fundamental laws of mathematical geography in so far as necessary for general culture.

"3. A knowledge of the physical and specially of the geological conditions of the earth's surface and an understanding of their mutual relations and causal connections.

"4. An understanding of the interaction of the physical properties of the earth's surface and man's activities.

"5. That measure of geographic knowledge which is necessary to understand the life of the present. Under this heading we include a knowledge of the distribution of peoples and races, of the political divisions of the earth, of the products of the separate countries and of the routes and *foci* of the world's commerce and transportation."

The program of the section on Geographic Teaching also included two papers on this subject, one by Dr. Schwarz, the principal of a "Realschule" in Lübeck, on "The Teaching of Mathematical Astronomy in the Lower and Middle Classes of Secondary Schools," and one by Dr. Oppel, who presented two new commercial wall maps of which he is the editor. The one illustrates the products, industries and commerce of Europe on the scale of 1:3,200,000, while the other deals with the same features in greater detail with regard to the German Empire on the scale of 1:800,000. Both maps are very clear, every arrangement which tends to produce illegibility, such as the superposition of symbols, being carefully avoided. If, in principle, the feasibility be recognized of presenting economic and commercial data on a map intended to be effective at a distance, these maps may well be considered to represent a very decided advance in their specific field.

The remaining papers dealt with miscellaneous subjects, except a group of three which treated of the physiography of the plain of the lower Elbe. Dr. Olbrich discussed the morphological problems of the Lüneburg Heath, Dr. Lehmann, those of the island of Rügen, while Dr. Behrmann spoke of the glacial valley troughs to the west of the lower Weser.

Professor Oberhummer had chosen "Medical Geography in its Relations to Anthropogeography" as his theme. By medical geography he understood that branch of geography which deals with the conditions of existence of man, as such, and of the different races. It involves, he explained, such questions as those of the influence of climate on man's physical state, of the vertical and horizontal limits of the distribution of mankind, of the possibility of existence for various races in other than their own zone, as, for instance, of the white race in the tropics, of the black in temperate zones, and of the yellow race, with its seemingly unlimited capacity for accommodation. Furthermore, it includes the consideration of medicinal springs, not for their therapeutic interest, but because of their economic importance in furnishing the *nuclei* around which settlements have crystallized. The discussion of the distribution of diseases and their geographic control terminated this original paper.

A paper on balloon maps by Dr. Gasser bore witness to Germany's ever-increasing interest in aeronautics; and one on the Spelling of Geographic Names, by Professor Rein, made a stand against the acceptance of English spelling for foreign names, especially Chinese and Japanese, and told of Germany's effort to liberate itself from foreign influences.

In a business session of the meeting Professor Philippson offered a resolution, which was adopted by the majority of members present. It deplored the fact that the published results of scientific undertakings carried out under the auspices of the German Government are sold only at practically prohibitive prices and that they are not even furnished free or at an adequate discount to libraries and university seminars, thereby limiting their usefulness to a great extent. In view of this fact it was recommended that in each appropriation allowance be made for a sufficient amount to cover the cost of publication, so as to render possible the free distribution of copies to the public institutions of Germany and, as far as practicable, of foreign countries. In the discussion which preceded the adoption of this resolution attention was directed to the liberality of American and British government bureaus in the distribution of their scientific publications.

In connection with the meeting a geographic exhibit had been arranged that, as is customary, emphasized local conditions. A series of maps of Lübeck and the surrounding country from 1600 to the present illustrated the historical growth of the town. Further contributions to the geography of Lübeck were contained in the catalogue of the exhibit in an article on "The Cartography of Lübeck" by G. Häussler, and in three treatises on the Geology of Schleswig-Holstein by R. Struck, on Sailing Directions for Lübeck Bay by F. Schultze and on the Etymology of the name Lübeck by W. Ohnesorge. These three papers were united to form a very attractive memorial which was presented to the members. A pamphlet on the Geology of the City of Lübeck by Dr. P. Friedrich, together with a paper read at the opening session by Dr. Ohnesorge on the

Position and Development of Lübeck, rendered familiar the region in which the meeting was convening.

The geographic exhibit further contained objects relating to navigation, surveying and terrestrial magnetism, consisting of instruments, charts and books, the ethnological collections of the Lübeck Mpwangwe expedition, referred to above in connection with the paper on that subject, and a small but interesting exhibit illustrating the methods of teaching geography in secondary schools. Several map publishers had also sent samples of their wall maps, school geographies and atlases.

The meeting was followed by various excursions, most of which afforded an opportunity for the study of moraine topography. The main excursion, lasting three days, had eastern Schleswig-Holstein for its field, while three single day excursions included a visit to the region immediately to the south of Lübeck, a trip down the Trave by boat and the demonstration of the use of oceanographic instruments on board a surveying steamer.

The XVIIth meeting of German Geographers can, therefore, worthily rank with its predecessors as truly representative of the German geographic thought of the day. The next meeting would ordinarily take place two years hence, but, in order to avoid conflicting with the International Geographic Congress, it will be held in 1912 at Innsbruck.

GEOGRAPHICAL RECORD.

AMERICA.

THE SOCIETY'S EDUCATIONAL COLLECTION.—The wall maps, atlases, and text-books, representative of many of the best appliances used for geographical education in Europe, which were collected last year by the American Geographical Society, are now on exhibition in the University summer schools of the middle West. The exhibition opened at the University of Wisconsin on April 15, University of Minnesota on June 4, and Ohio State University on June 21. The later exhibitions will open at the University of Chicago, July 15; Denison University, Granville, Ohio, Sept. 15; University of Cincinnati, Oct. 15; State Normal School of Michigan, Ypsilanti, Nov. 24; and the University of Michigan, Dec. 1. The University of California and Leland Stanford Junior University have secured the collection for dates not yet assigned, and when it goes to the Pacific Coast it will probably remain there for some time. Not a few teachers think that the collection will be especially helpful in the Normal Schools and it is expected that many of them will exhibit it. The material is loaned to any educational institution that desires it.